United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release

Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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CROP PRODUCTION - MAY 2010

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Winter wheat production in Colorado, based on conditions as of May 1, 2010, is forecast at 87.4 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This forecast is 11 percent below last year's production, but 53 percent above the winter wheat crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.3 million acres, is 150,000 acres less than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 38.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels per acre from last year's crop. This year's crop was planted under generally good conditions resulting in some very good stands going into winter dormancy. After a relatively moist but windy winter the crop has retained most of its potential. Above average soil moisture supplies exist in most growing areas. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

Hay stocks on Colorado farms and ranches as of May 1, 2010 totaled 650,000 tons, up 63 percent from stocks of 400,000 tons on hand last year. More hay production last year combined with better pasture conditions last fall and winter led to the increase in hay inventory.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Production of winter wheat is forecast at 1.46 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2009. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 31.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.9 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous year.

In the southern Great Plains States, mostly adequate rainfall this spring along with moderate temperatures allowed for good crop development. Record snowfall in Oklahoma aided the crop throughout the early growing season. Crop conditions improved from last year in all of the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) producing States. As of May 2, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Oklahoma and Texas was 66 and 46 points above last year, respectively. The crop in the northern Great Plains States had adequate snow cover with limited winter kill reported. Yields are forecasted to be up from 2009 in Montana, Oklahoma, and Texas, down in Colorado and Nebraska, and unchanged in Kansas. The delayed fall seeding in many of the Soft Red Winter (SRW) producing States led to emergence lagging behind the 5-year average. Precipitation has been lower than normal across much of the Corn Belt. The percent of crop rated good to excellent declined from last year in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Yields are expected to be up from 2009 in Illinois, down in Missouri, and unchanged in Ohio. A cool, wet spring in the Pacific Northwest has caused crop development to be slightly behind the 5-year average in Oregon and Washington. Yields are forecasted to be up from 2009 in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at a collective 18.9 million bushels, down 36 percent from the previous year. As of May 2, Durum in Arizona was 90

percent headed, 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Scattered incidents of high winds causing lodging were reported in California.

All hay stored on farms May 1, 2010 totaled 20.9 million tons, down 5 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2009-May 1, 2010 totaled 86.3 million tons, compared with 81.6 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased in the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley, Rocky Mountains, and much of the Southwest. Stock increases in these areas were largely attributed to improved spring pasture conditions and in many cases, higher 2009 hay production. Stocks in Kentucky and Rhode Island showed the largest increases with 116 and 100 percent, respectively. Hay stocks were down in the southern Great Plains, Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes, Delta, and most Atlantic Coast States. A harsh, snowy winter in many States in these areas caused hay stocks to dwindle as producers were forced to feed more hay due to the lack of available winter pastures. Hay stocks were also lower compared with May 1, 2009 in California, Washington, and Utah. Overall, the greatest percentage declines occurred in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.